New Mexico Labor Market Review

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Governor

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New Mexico Department of LABOR

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New Mexico's unemployment rate was 6.4 percent in November, down from 7.0 percent in October and 8.2 percent one year ago, according to estimates released by Paul M. Garcia, Secretary of the New Mexico Department of Labor. The number of unemployed in the state fell by 3,900 to a total of 45,700 in November. Employment in the state has grown by 33,000 and unemployment has declined by 10,600 over the last twelve months. The U.S. unemployment rate in November was 5.2 percent (not seasonally adjusted), up slightly from 5.0 percent in October but improved from 5.6 percent one year ago.

Estimates of nonagricultural employment, based on a survey of nonagricultural employers across the state, indicated approximately 3,700 more jobs on payroll in November than in October. The majority of the additional jobs were in two sectors, trade and government. The gains in trade were mainly tied to holiday-related hiring in areas such as general merchandise, apparel, and miscellaneous retail trade.

The rather large local government employment increase during November was the result of the temporary hiring of poll workers required for the general election held November 8th. The monthly estimates reflect this short-term hiring because the estimates refer to all persons receiving pay for any part of the pay period which includes the 12th day of the month - the survey week. This is an anomaly, because the general election in November usually falls in the week prior to the estimate survey week.

The November payroll estimates indicated seasonal-related job decreases in the remaining major industries in New Mexico. The number of jobs overall in manufacturing and construction declined as building activity began its wintertime lull and the fall food processing season (largely chile and vegetables) came to an end. Employment in services also fell back as lodging places furloughed workers for the winter months.

The November estimates also reflected several atypical employment changes. On the down side, the utilities industry reported job declines totalling 300, mostly related to the recent layoffs by Public Service Company of New Mexico. On the positive side, the electronics manufacturing sector continued to experience job growth during the month. Employment in electronics manufacturing is now up by 700 jobs or 14 percent over the last twelve months.

	Prel.	Revised		Change From	
	Nov. 1988	Oct. 1988	Nov. 1987	Oct. 1988	Nov. 1987
Civilian Labor Force	709,800	706,300	687,400	+3,500	+22,400
Employment	664,100	656,700	631,100	+7,400	+33,000
Unemployment	45,700	49,600	56,300	-3,900	-10,600
Rate	6.4%	7.0%	8.2%		

ESTIMATED NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT (JOBS)
(Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

NEW MEXICO	PRELIM NOV 1988	REVISED OCT 1988	REVISED NOV 1987	NOV CHANGE FROM OCT 1988	NOV CHANGE FROM NOV 1987
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT 1/	554,100	550,400	537,000	3,700	17,100
MINING	15,400	15,400	15,700	0	-300
Metal Mining	2,200	2,200	2,100	0	100
Bituminous Coal, Quarrying etc	4,000	4,000	4,100	0	-100
Oil & Gas Extraction	9,200	9,200	9,500	0	-300
CONSTRUCTION	30,300	30,600	31,200	-300	-900
MANUFACTURING	41,300	41,800	39,500	-500	1,800
DURABLE GOODS	28,300	28,300	26,700	0	1,600
Lumber & Wood Products	2,700	2,700	2,600	0	100
Machinery(except electric)	2,600	2,600	2,500	0	100
Elec & Electronic Equip	5,800	5,700	5,100	100	700
Transportation Equipment	5,600	5,700	5,200	-100	400
Other Durable Goods	11,600	11,600	11,300	0	300
NONDURABLE GOODS	13,000	13,500	12,800	-500	200
Food & Kindred Products	3,900	4,400	4,000	-500	-100
Textile & Apparel	2,700	2,700	2,600	0	100
Other Nondurable Goods	6,400	6,400	6,200	0	200
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	28,700	29,000	29,200	-300	-500
TRANSPORTATION	13,300	13,300	13,200	0	100
Railroad Transportation	2,000	2,000	2,100	0	-100
Trucking & Warehousing	6,300	6,300	6,200	0	100
Other Transportation	5,000	5,000	4,900	0	100
COMMUNICATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	15,400	15,700	16,000	-300	-600
Communication	6,900	6,900	6,900	0	0
Elec, Gas, & Sanitary Services	8,500	8,800	9,100	-300	-600
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	135,600	134,500	130,900	1,100	4,700
WHOLESALE TRADE	23,000	23,000	22,900	0	100
Durable Goods	13,400	13,400	13,300	0	100
Nondurable Goods	9,600	9,600	9,600	0	0
RETAIL TRADE	112,600	111,500	108,000	1,100	4,600
Bldg Material & Mobile Homes	4,500	4,500	4,400	0	100
General Merchandise Stores	13,400	13,100	13,400	300	0
Food Stores	15,600	15,600	15,000	0	600
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	13,500	13,500	13,100	0	400
Apparel & Accessories	5,900	5,600	5,900	300	0
Furniture & Furnishing	4,500	4,400	4,400	100	100
Eating & Drinking Places	43,000	42,900	40,000	100	3,000
Miscellaneous Retail	12,200	11,900	11,800	300	400
FINANCE, INSURANCE, & REAL ESTATE	27,800	27,800	27,300	0	500
Banking	8,000	8,000	8,000	0	0
Insurance Carriers	4,000	4,000	3,800	0	200
Insur Agents, Brokers & Service	3,000	3,000	2,900	0	100
Real Estate	6,800	6,800	6,600	0	200
Other Fin, Ins & Real Estate	6,000	6,000	6,000	0	0
SERVICES	126,100	126,700	121,600	-600	4,500
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	11,200	11,500	11,200	-300	0
Personal Services	6,100	6,100	5,800	0	300
Business Services	31,100	31,100	29,300	0	1,800
Health Services	31,500	31,600	30,800	-100	700
Legal Services	4,500	4,500	4,300	0	200
Educational Services	6,100	6,100	5,300	0	800
Social Services	6,800	6,800	6,600	0	200
Membership Organizations	5,900	6,000	6,300	-100	-400
Other Services	22,900	23,000	22,000	-100	900
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	148,900	144,600	141,600	4,300	7,300
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT	29,400	29,700	29,700	-300	-300
STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT	119,500	114,900	111,900	4,600	7,600
State Government 2/	50,400	50,500	50,800	-100	-400
Local Government	69,100	64,400	61,100	4,700	8,000

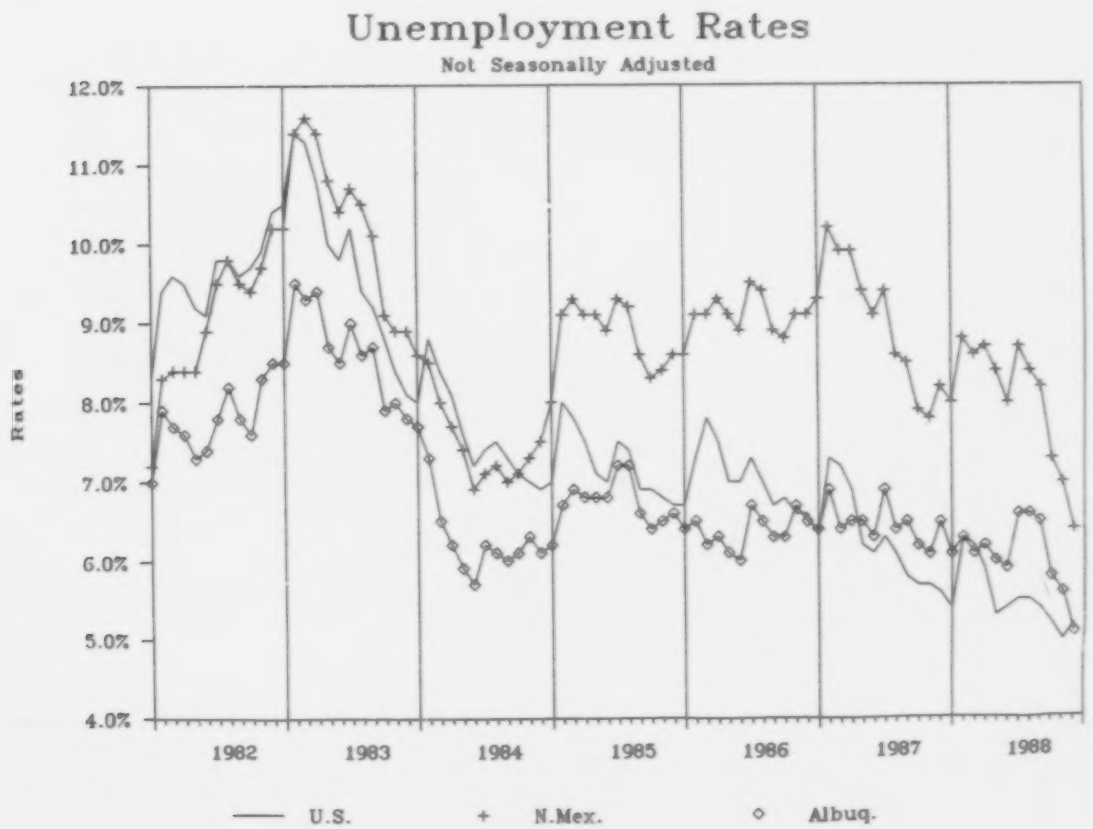
1/ Estimates include all full-time and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period which included the 12th day of the month. Self-employed, family workers, household workers and members of the Armed Forces are excluded.
2/ Includes employees of Los Alamos National Laboratory.

ALBUQUERQUE AREA (BERNALILLO COUNTY)

Albuquerque's jobless rate fell from 5.6 to 5.1 percent in November, continuing the improving trend in evidence since early 1987. The number of Albuquerque residents unemployed declined by 1,200, while the number with jobs grew by 1,900 during November. Unemployment has fallen by 3,100 persons and total employment has expanded by 11,800 over the last year. Albuquerque's jobless rate in November was virtually the same as the national average rate of 5.2 percent (not seasonally adjusted). Albuquerque had the third lowest unemployment rate in New Mexico in November, behind the 4.2 percent rate in Santa Fe and 4.3 percent in Roosevelt County.

Looking at the industry payroll job estimates for November, many of the gains were seasonal related - retailers hiring for the Christmas seaso and local government employment increases due t poll workers hired for the November 8th general election (see the statewide article on page one). However, the size of the trade gain (+1,000) was significantly larger than usually expected, indicating continued strength in the industry. Trade continues to lead all major industries in Albuquerque with 2,400 or 4.0 percent annual job growth. Positive news also came from the manufacturing industry during the month. Manufacturing employment, overall, declined slightly during November; however, the losses were seasonal (food processing and construction materials) while continued long term growth was reported in electrical equipment manufacturing.

	Prel.	Revised		Change From	
	Nov. 1988	Oct. 1988	Nov. 1987	Oct. 1988	Nov. 1987
Civilian Labor Force	271,900	271,200	263,200	+ 700	+8,700
Employment	258,000	256,100	246,200	+1,900	+11,800
Unemployment	13,900	15,100	17,000	-1,200	-3,100
Rate	5.1%	5.6%	6.5%		



ESTIMATED NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT (JOBS)
(Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

ALBUQUERQUE MSA (BERNALILLO COUNTY)	PRELIM NOV 1988	REVISED OCT 1988	REVISED NOV 1987	NOV CHANGE FROM OCT 1988	NOV CHANGE FROM NOV 1987
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT 1/	239,900	239,700	235,000	200	4,900
MINING	100	100	200	0	-100
CONSTRUCTION	15,500	15,800	15,800	-300	-300
MANUFACTURING	20,400	20,600	20,200	-200	200
Durable Goods	14,800	14,900	14,600	-100	200
Nondurable Goods	5,600	5,700	5,600	-100	0
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	12,300	12,500	12,500	-200	-200
Transportation	6,300	6,300	6,100	0	200
Communication	3,800	3,800	3,900	0	-100
Elec, Gas, & Sanitary Services	2,200	2,400	2,500	-200	-300
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	63,700	62,700	61,300	1,000	2,400
WHOLESALE TRADE	14,300	14,300	14,200	0	100
Durable Goods	9,600	9,600	9,500	0	100
Nondurable Goods	4,700	4,700	4,700	0	0
RETAIL TRADE	49,400	48,400	47,100	1,000	2,300
General Merchandise Stores	5,900	5,600	5,600	300	300
Food Stores	5,500	5,300	5,200	200	300
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	4,900	4,800	4,600	100	300
Eating & Drinking Places	19,700	19,800	18,400	-100	1,300
Other Retail Trade	13,400	12,900	13,300	500	100
FINANCE, INSURANCE, & REAL ESTATE	15,100	15,100	15,000	0	100
Banking	3,400	3,400	3,300	0	100
Ins Carriers, Agents & Brokers	4,300	4,300	4,300	0	0
Other Fin, Ins & Real Estate	7,400	7,400	7,400	0	0
SERVICES	64,800	65,200	63,600	-400	1,200
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	3,800	3,900	3,800	-100	0
Personal Services	2,700	2,700	2,800	0	-100
Business Services	21,300	21,300	20,900	0	400
Health Services	14,600	14,600	14,600	0	0
Social Services	2,800	2,800	2,700	0	100
Membership Organizations	1,800	1,800	1,800	0	0
Other Services	17,800	18,100	17,000	-300	800
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	48,000	47,700	46,400	300	1,600
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT	13,100	13,200	12,900	-100	200
STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT	34,900	34,500	33,500	400	1,400
State Government	13,000	13,300	13,000	-300	0
Local Government	21,900	21,200	20,500	700	1,400

1/ Estimates include all full-time and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period which included the 12th day of the month. Self-employed, family workers, household workers and members of the Armed Forces are excluded.

ESTIMATED NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT (JOBS)
(Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

LAS CRUCES MSA (DONA ANA COUNTY) 1/	PRELIM NOV 1988	REVISED OCT 1988	REVISED NOV 1987	NOV CHANGE FROM OCT 1988	NOV CHANGE FROM NOV 1987
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT 2/	42,500	42,350	41,200	150	1,300
MINING	50	50	50	0	0
CONSTRUCTION	2,100	2,200	2,100	-100	0
MANUFACTURING	4,000	4,200	4,250	-200	-250
Durable Goods	1,500	1,500	1,750	0	-250
Nondurable Goods	2,500	2,700	2,500	-200	0
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	1,250	1,250	1,350	0	-100
Transportation	450	450	550	0	-100
Comm, Elec, Gas & Sanitary Svs	800	800	800	0	0
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	9,250	9,200	8,500	50	750
WHOLESALE TRADE	950	950	900	0	50
RETAIL TRADE	8,300	8,250	7,600	50	700
General Merchandise Stores	1,050	1,050	950	0	100
Food Stores	1,150	1,150	1,050	0	100
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	1,150	1,150	1,050	0	100
Eating & Drinking Places	3,200	3,200	2,900	0	300
Other Retail Trade	1,750	1,700	1,650	50	100
FINANCE, INSURANCE, & REAL ESTATE	1,750	1,750	1,650	0	100
SERVICES	7,000	7,100	6,400	-100	600
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	700	700	700	0	0
Business Services	1,500	1,500	1,350	0	150
Health Services	1,900	1,900	1,800	0	100
Social Services	300	300	250	0	50
Other Services	2,600	2,700	2,300	-100	300
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	17,100	16,600	16,900	500	200
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT	4,200	4,200	4,300	0	-100
STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT	12,900	12,400	12,600	500	300
State Government	7,000	6,800	7,200	200	-200
Local Government	5,900	5,600	5,400	300	500

SANTA FE MSA (SANTA FE & LOS ALAMOS COUNTIES) 1/	PRELIM NOV 1988	REVISED OCT 1988	REVISED NOV 1987	NOV CHANGE FROM OCT 1988	NOV CHANGE FROM NOV 1987
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT 2/	56,100	55,900	54,650	200	1,450
MINING	50	50	100	0	-50
CONSTRUCTION	2,500	2,600	2,500	-100	0
MANUFACTURING	1,800	1,750	1,700	50	100
Durable Goods	1,200	1,150	1,100	50	100
Nondurable Goods	600	600	600	0	0
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	1,200	1,250	1,200	-50	0
Transportation	450	500	450	-50	0
Comm, Elec, Gas & Sanitary Svs	750	750	750	0	0
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	11,350	11,150	10,900	200	450
WHOLESALE TRADE	850	850	800	0	50
RETAIL TRADE	10,500	10,300	10,100	200	400
General Merchandise Stores	1,000	950	1,100	50	-100
Food Stores	1,250	1,200	1,300	50	-50
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	850	850	800	0	50
Eating & Drinking Places	4,800	4,700	4,300	100	500
Other Retail Trade	2,600	2,600	2,600	0	0
FINANCE, INSURANCE, & REAL ESTATE	1,900	1,900	2,000	0	-100
SERVICES	14,600	14,900	14,250	-300	350
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	1,850	2,000	1,750	-150	100
Business Services	3,500	3,500	3,300	0	200
Health Services	3,400	3,500	3,300	-100	100
Social Services	650	600	600	50	50
Other Services	5,200	5,300	5,300	-100	-100
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	22,700	22,300	22,000	400	700
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT	1,600	1,600	1,600	0	0
STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT	21,100	20,700	20,400	400	700
State Government 3/	16,500	16,400	16,300	100	200
Local Government	4,600	4,300	4,100	300	500

1/ In accordance with the CES Manual, those published cells with less than 2,000 employees are rounded to nearest 50. Those published cells with more than 2,000 employees are rounded to 100.
2/ Estimates include all full-time and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period which included the 12th day of the month. Self-employed, family workers, household workers and members of the Armed Forces are excluded.
3/ Includes employees of Los Alamos National Laboratory.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS
Hours and Earnings of Production, Construction and Nonsupervisory Employees
(Prepared in cooperation with the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS			AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS			AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS		
NEW MEXICO	NOV 1988	OCT 1988	NOV 1987	NOV 1988	OCT 1988	NOV 1987	NOV 1988	OCT 1988	NOV 1987
MINING	$500.94	$501.80	$516.85	41.4	41.3	44.1	12.10	12.15	11.72
CONSTRUCTION	$453.10	$478.40	$431.34	40.6	41.1	39.5	11.16	11.64	10.92
MANUFACTURING	$361.26	$349.67	$351.25	40.5	40.1	39.6	8.92	8.72	8.87
Durable Goods	$372.86	$372.60	$369.24	41.2	40.9	40.8	9.05	9.11	9.05
Nondurable Goods	$306.10	$295.29	$304.88	38.6	38.2	36.6	7.93	7.73	8.33
COMMUNICATION & UTILITIES	$569.98	$545.29	$576.84	40.8	39.6	41.8	13.97	13.77	13.80
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	$206.58	$215.04	$219.84	31.3	32.0	32.0	6.60	6.72	6.87
Wholesale Trade	$346.12	$371.07	$401.60	40.2	41.6	40.2	8.61	8.92	9.99
Retail Trade	$180.56	$185.73	$205.10	29.6	30.2	31.7	6.10	6.15	6.47
BANKING	$245.70	$245.05	$229.13	37.8	37.7	37.5	6.50	6.50	6.11
ALBUQUERQUE MSA	NOV 1988	OCT 1988	NOV 1987	NOV 1988	OCT 1988	NOV 1987	NOV 1988	OCT 1988	NOV 1987
MANUFACTURING	$381.44	$382.15	$364.00	39.9	40.1	40.0	9.56	9.53	9.10
Durable Goods	$406.55	$406.14	$387.46	40.9	40.9	40.7	9.94	9.93	9.52
Nondurable Goods	$306.27	$311.03	$292.18	36.9	37.7	37.7	8.30	8.25	7.75

NOTE: Estimates include all full-time and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period which included the 12th day of the month. Self-employed, family workers, household workers and members of the Armed Forces are excluded. The average earnings are "gross" reflecting not only changes in basic hourly and incentive wage rates but also such factors as premium pay for overtime and shift differentials. The work week information relates to the average hours for which pay was received, and is different from standard or scheduled hours due to absenteeism, labor turnover, part time work, overtime work etc.

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U.S. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

Beginning with the release of January 1988 data, the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics has shifted the Consumer Price Index (CPI) to a new reference base year, 1982-84 = 100. Historical data for the CPI series on the new base are available from the U.S. Department of Labor by writing to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 525 Griffin St., Room 221, Dallas, TX 75202, or by calling (214) 767-6970.

	Nov. 1988	Oct. 1988	Nov. 1987	Percent Change Oct.'88-Nov.'88	Percent Change Nov.'87-Nov.'88
CPI-U	120.3	120.2	115.4	+0.1%	+4.2%
CPI-W	119.0	118.9	114.3	+0.1%	+4.1%

Index Base Year 1982-84 = 100

CPI-U - All Urban Consumers
CPI-W - Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Area Economic Activity

Albuquerque Area: BDM International has officially opened the fourth building in its Albuquerque Technology Center. The newly opened facility includes four laboratories and office space. BDM currently employs 900 persons in Albuquerque, and the firm recently received a 4-year, $23 million contract to manage data processing for the New Mexico Department of Human Services. Xynatech Corporation, the Pennsylvania-based cutting die maker, will begin operations in its new plant in Rio Rancho in January. Xynatech is expected to employ 35 workers at the 14,000-square-foot facility in the New Mexico Business Tech Center on NM 528 in Rio Rancho. The University of New Mexico Hospital will begin construction of a $19 million office and outpatient services building beginning in March 1989. The five-story, 200,000 square-foot structure will be located on Lomas Boulevard on what is now the hospital's front parking area. Presbyterian Healthcare Services has informed its 2,850 area employees that budget cuts will be needed in 1989. Layoffs at Presbyterian Hospital are possible; however, no furlough decisions have been reached so far, according to hospital officials. Another health facility in Albuquerque, the Veterans Medical Center, will reduce its work force by 80 and cut back on patient services because of budget shortfalls. Officials say that the cutbacks can be accomplished through attrition.

Alamogordo / Ruidoso Area: The Dick Blanken automobile dealership in Alamogordo is undergoing an $800,000 expansion of its showroom and service facilities. The tentative completion date for the expansion is February 1, 1989. Ski Apache opened up its 88/89 ski season on December 3 with a work force of 150 persons. Ski Cloudcroft is also open with approximately 20 employees.

Carlsbad Area: Good news continues to come from the potash industry with the recent announcement by Amax Potash Corporation to expand the operations of its Carlsbad area operation. The expansion, which will involve mining at an "upper level ore zone as reserves in the lower ore zone are depleted", is expected to add 100 jobs to Amax's current 260 work force. The City of Carlsbad will furnish part-time jobs for 90 area disadvantaged youth under a $250,000 Job Training Partnership Act program, administered by the New Mexico Department of Labor. The program is directed at providing students part-time jobs and tutoring in an effort to decrease the number of school dropouts. Celtech Corporation, an electronics company, will move its operations from Celeste, Texas to a new facility in the Carlsbad Airport Industrial Park. The firm manufactures measurement and instrumentation equipment used in the military. Celtech is expected to employ up to 30 workers by the end of 1989.

Clovis / Portales Area: Construction has begun at the North Plains Mall for a new Sears, Roebuck and Company facility. John Prince Development Co of Utah is overseeing the project.

Deming / Lordsburg Area: A Mesa, Arizona contractor plans to purchase the closed Victorio Homes manufacturing facility in Lordsburg with plans to reopen with a work force of approximately 10. The manufactured housing facility has been closed since spring of 1988.

Farmington Area: A major maintenance and improvement project at Four Corners Power Plant begun in October 1988 will provide temporary jobs for up to 1,000 area workers. The project is expected to cost over $70 million and last up to six months. Peak employment at the power plant should be in late February. Sunbelt Mining Company has closed its two area coal strip mining operations, resulting in the layoff of 50 workers. Public Service Company of New Mexico, which owns Sunbelt and 51 percent of the San Juan Power Plant, no longer needs the coal because of reduced electricity demands, according to PNM officials. Carroll Ventures Inc., an Albuquerque-based building supply firm, will open a retail center and wholesale roofing supply business in Farmington. The business will be located in the former Copeland-Craven auto dealership facility after renovation work is completed.

Hobbs / Lovington Area: Holly Corporation, the parent company of Navajo Refinery of Artesia, is negotiating with Southern Union Company to purchase the closed Famariss Oil Refinery near Lovington. Navajo officials said they are "90 percent sure" that a deal can be reached for the facility; however, the sale was not finalized at the time of this writing. The Famariss refinery, which employed up to 120 workers, was closed in 1984 after suffering operating losses.

Las Cruces Area: A Detroit-based automotive fabric manufacturer, Acme Mills, has announced plans to locate a 25,000-square-foot plant in Santa Teresa, New Mexico. B.P. John Furniture Company is continuing its search for a location in southern New Mexico for a new 350,000-square-foot, $4.5 million manufacturing plant, according to company officials. The company is still looking at the Anthony area, south of Las Cruces for the plant which could employ up to 600 workers. The area economy will be given a boost next summer by a temporary construction project at the NASA satellite tracking station, east of Las Cruces. General Electric Co. was awarded a $202 million contract to supply and install equipment at the NASA facility, and approximately 200 workers, many from the Las Cruces area, will be used in the installation, according to officials. Wal-Mart officials have announced plans to remodel and expand their store in Las Cruces. The expansion will add 21,000 square-feet to the store and result in 30 more jobs on Wal-Mart's area payroll.

Roswell Area: A Roswell food processing firm, Mealmakers Inc., closed its plant in early December, resulting in the layoff of approximately 60 workers. Lack of raw product supply, related to this summer's drought in the midwest, was cited as the major reason for the closure. Relief may by on the way for the natural gas producers in the arsenic-tainted Abo Field, a 900-square-mile geological formation located north of Roswell. Approximately 600 gas wells have been shut in since last summer because of naturally occurring arsenic contamination. Producers have now found a way to remove the arsenic using iron oxide pellets, and the Abo field is expected to be back in operation by early 1989. The shut-in has cost the gas producers about $75,000 per day, while the state is losing $23,000 per day in taxes and royalties, according to industry officials. Fibertech, a company which supplies fiberglass parts to Transportation Manufacturing Corporation, is planning to build a 36,000 square-foot plant in the Roswell Industrial Air Center. Fibertech has been operating since March 1988 out of two temporary locations in Roswell. The firm currently employs 47 workers, and future plans call for a staff of up to 100 within two years after the completion of its new building.

Santa Fe Area: Tom's Sports, a local wholesale sporting goods distributor, plans to build a showroom and warehouse at the Rodeo Business Park. The director of Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL), Dr. Sig Hecker, reported recently that no new layoffs are expected at LANL in 1989. The lab's 1989 budget of $917 million will support the 7,700 full-time workers at the research facility. Los Alamos Diagnostics, a company specializing in development and production of devices used to rapidly detect urinary-tract infections, is planning to expand its current facilities in Los Alamos by approximately 6,000 square feet within the next few months. The firm, which currently employs 26 persons, is anticipating hiring an additional 40 workers in 1989.

Silver City Area: An Albuquerque-based partnership is locating a 40-unit residential complex in Silver City specifically for the elderly and handicapped. STKX Company of Albuquerque is both the general partner and prime contractor on the facility which is named Casa Linda Apartments. Mining activity is continuing at the Pinos Altos operation north of Silver City. Cyprus Minerals Company and St. Cloud Mining Company have been operating the Pinos Altos property as a joint venture since September 1987. The mine produces copper, silver and gold ore, which are shipped to the St. Cloud concentrator in Sierra County. The construction of the new Wal-Mart store in Silver City is scheduled to begin in early 1989. The Wal-Mart facility should employ up to 120 workers.

Taos Area: The closed Molycorp molybdenum mine in Questa has an "excellent chance to reopen in 1989", according to Molycorp officials. The mine had been Taos County's largest employer until it ceased operations in early 1986. The mine could reopen with a work force of 250 if federal and state approval is given for a proposed tailings pond at the facility. Taos Ski Valley opened for the 88-89 season on December 8, later than the usual Thanksgiving opening. The new Holiday Inn in Taos presently under construction is scheduled to open in January. Employment at the new lodging facility is expected to be between 60 and 70.

NEW MEXICO LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES 1/

	PRELIMINARY NOVEMBER 1988				REVISED OCTOBER 1988				REVISED NOVEMBER 1987			
	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate
STATEWIDE	709,761	664,059	45,702	6.4%	706,285	656,724	49,561	7.0%	687,377	631,091	56,286	8.2%
ALBUQUERQUE MSA 2/	271,833	257,982	13,851	5.1%	271,155	256,060	15,095	5.6%	263,216	246,228	16,988	6.5%
LAS CRUCES MSA 3/	60,091	56,651	3,440	5.7%	59,944	55,890	4,054	6.8%	57,272	53,179	4,093	7.1%
SANTA FE MSA 4/	68,520	65,616	2,904	4.2%	68,030	64,833	3,197	4.7%	65,127	61,764	3,363	5.2%
Catron	1,214	1,095	119	9.8%	1,253	1,142	111	8.9%	1,194	1,062	132	11.1%
Chaves	25,040	23,682	1,358	5.4%	24,844	23,423	1,421	5.7%	23,095	21,350	1,745	7.6%
Cibola	9,439	8,580	859	9.1%	9,176	8,240	936	10.2%	9,060	8,027	1,033	11.4%
Colfax	6,193	5,392	801	12.9%	6,353	5,526	827	13.0%	6,773	6,080	693	10.2%
Curry	16,978	15,897	1,081	6.4%	17,067	15,914	1,153	6.8%	17,102	15,641	1,461	8.5%
De Baca	941	843	98	10.4%	938	850	88	9.4%	945	847	98	10.4%
Eddy	21,117	19,521	1,596	7.6%	20,943	19,138	1,805	8.6%	20,381	18,253	2,128	10.4%
Grant	10,481	9,661	820	7.8%	10,390	9,433	957	9.2%	10,624	9,666	958	9.0%
Guadalupe	1,660	1,422	238	14.3%	1,622	1,384	238	14.7%	1,634	1,379	255	15.6%
Harding	428	378	50	11.7%	428	378	50	11.7%	429	374	55	12.8%
Hidalgo	2,567	2,419	148	5.8%	2,548	2,389	159	6.2%	2,603	2,415	188	7.2%
Lea	23,408	21,750	1,648	7.0%	23,204	21,537	1,667	7.2%	22,966	20,997	1,969	8.6%
Lincoln	6,813	6,423	390	5.7%	6,859	6,424	435	6.3%	6,414	5,886	528	8.2%
Luna	6,090	5,381	709	11.6%	6,075	5,505	570	9.4%	5,960	5,102	858	14.4%
McKinley	17,563	15,898	1,665	9.5%	17,494	15,586	1,908	10.9%	17,462	15,348	2,114	12.1%
Mora	1,364	974	390	28.6%	1,295	959	336	25.9%	1,387	975	412	29.7%
Otero	19,196	17,861	1,335	7.0%	19,136	17,634	1,502	7.8%	18,046	16,627	1,419	7.9%
Quay	4,771	4,460	311	6.5%	4,878	4,500	378	7.7%	4,722	4,276	446	9.4%
Rio Arriba	13,867	12,086	1,781	12.8%	13,537	11,819	1,718	12.7%	13,741	11,409	2,332	17.0%
Roosevelt	7,951	7,609	342	4.3%	8,058	7,699	359	4.5%	8,023	7,524	499	6.2%
Sandoval	29,033	27,362	1,671	5.8%	28,493	26,527	1,966	6.9%	24,911	22,920	1,991	8.0%
San Juan	32,354	29,527	2,827	8.7%	32,282	29,175	3,107	9.6%	33,780	29,546	4,234	12.5%
San Miguel	9,799	8,841	958	9.8%	9,612	8,634	978	10.2%	9,934	8,746	1,188	12.0%
Sierra	2,749	2,601	148	5.4%	2,718	2,582	136	5.0%	2,641	2,474	167	6.3%
Socorro	6,188	5,763	425	6.9%	6,223	5,721	502	8.1%	6,202	5,586	616	9.9%
Taos	9,795	7,809	1,986	20.3%	9,631	7,690	1,941	20.2%	10,595	8,269	2,326	22.0%
Torrance	3,639	3,334	305	8.4%	3,685	3,309	376	10.2%	3,615	3,226	389	10.8%
Union	2,043	1,922	121	5.9%	2,053	1,944	109	5.3%	2,107	1,983	124	5.9%
Valencia	16,636	15,309	1,327	8.0%	16,361	14,879	1,482	9.1%	15,416	13,932	1,484	9.6%

1/ All estimates are made in strict accordance with methodology provided by the U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

2/ Metropolitan Statistical Area - Bernalillo County

3/ Metropolitan Statistical Area - Dona Ana County

4/ Metropolitan Statistical Area - Santa Fe and Los Alamos Counties

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